



**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT BUREAU**

South Central Region
1457 Mount Pleasant Rd. Suite 113
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

December 3, 2013

Nick Orfanidis
Crowley Maritime Corporation
9487 Regency Square Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225

NOTICE OF UNLICENSED OPERATION

Case Number: EB-FIELDSCR-13-00012324
Document Number: W201432640001

On November 21, 2013, in response to an interference complaint from Verizon Wireless, an agent from this office confirmed by direction finding techniques that radio signals on 700 MHz Block C (776-787 MHz) were emanating from a US Navy ship located at Pier 13 of the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon an investigation aboard the ship, the agent found a bi-directional amplifier (BDA) or signal booster in use.¹ Your Port Engineer, and other personnel present during the investigation admitted to operating a SureCall CM5000-80 BDA onboard the ship and discontinued operations.

Verizon Wireless has a license to provide cellular communications on the frequency 780.000 MHz. Section 22.383 of the Commission's rules (Rules), which applies to public mobile service licensees like Verizon, provides that "[l]icensees may install in-building radiation systems without applying for authorization or notifying the FCC, provided that the locations of the in-building radiation systems are within the protected service area of the licensee's authorized transmitter(s) on the same channel or channel block."² A licensee's authority to install a BDA does not permit a subscriber to install a BDA, unless that subscriber has received explicit consent from the licensee to do so. Your employee(s) were unable to provide the FCC agent with evidence that you had consent from Verizon Wireless to install a BDA. Verizon Wireless also confirmed that it did not authorize you to install a BDA.

Operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid FCC authorization or license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,³ and may subject the responsible parties to substantial monetary forfeitures, *in rem* arrest action against the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.⁴ Because unlicensed operation creates a danger of interference to

¹ Section 22.99 of the Rules defines "signal booster" as a "stationary device that automatically reradiates signals from base transmitters without channel translation, for the purpose of improving the reliability of existing service by increasing the signal strength in dead spots." 47 C.F.R. § 22.99.

² 47 C.F.R. § 22.383.

³ 47 U.S.C. § 301.

⁴ See 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

important radio communications services and may subject the operator to severe penalties, this warning emphasizes the importance of complying strictly with these legal requirements.

UNLICENSED OPERATION OF THE BDA MUST NOT RESUME.

You have ten (10) days from the date of this notice to respond with any evidence that you have authority to operate granted by the FCC or have obtained consent from a licensed Common Carrier. To resolve the issues with respect to your authority to operate this device, and pursuant to Section 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,⁵ provide any agreements made with any cellular carrier to operate the system and include any relevant documents. Identify the make, model, serial number, and FCC ID of each piece of equipment in use during the inspection, including the antennas, if applicable.

Your response should be sent to the address in the letterhead and reference the listed case and document number. Under the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3), we are informing you that the Commission's staff will use all relevant material information before it to determine what, if any, enforcement action is required to ensure your compliance with Rules. This will include any information that you disclose in your reply.

You may contact this office if you have any questions.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Luther Bolden
Resident Agent
Norfolk Office
South Central Region

Attachments:

Excerpts from the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended
Enforcement Bureau, "Inspection Fact Sheet", March 2005

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 403.